

REMARKS

The claims of the present application are subject to a restriction requirement, and in a telephone conference with the Examiner on September 28, 2003, Group 1, claims 1-13 were elected for prosecution in this application. Applicant hereby confirms the election. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file claims relating to the non-elected invention in a divisional application.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-9 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-15 of United States Patent No. 5,713,242 (Kanner et al.), and rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 citing United States Patent No. 5,713,242 (Kanner et al.). Independent claim 1 has been amended to specifically claim that the housing and carrier member are non-integral, distinct components. Applicant respectfully submits that Kanner et al. does not disclose or suggest providing a carrier member or a carrier member and housing as separate components. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim rejections be withdrawn.

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and respectfully requests that the application be passed to issuance.


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Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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